(c) The losses in Super Bazar are *inter-alia* due to over staffing in comparison to the volume of business, inadequacy of working capital compared to the requirements, lack of credit based supplies, non-recovery of outstandings, increasing level of fixed costs and for age bills as well as lack of professionalisation in supervision and management Super Bazar has taken certain corrective measures to reduce the expenditure and increase the income of the store. The payment of overtime allowance, hard duty allowances and other fixed allowances have been stopped. Purchase of vehicles, furniture and other equipments as well as expenditure on newspapers, entertainment, use of taxies etc, have been stopped. To avoid any blockage of funds a policy of payment to the suppliers after realisation has been adopted and unviable branches of Super Bazar are likely to be closed.

(d) and (e) The Super Bazar workers unions have been submitting representations to Super Bazar Management regarding alleged corruptions and irregularities in its functioning. Super Bazar has reported that their Vigilance Department has investigated various allegations of corruption/irregularities and taken appropriate action. Irregularities committed by its former Chairman and other employees are being investigated by CBI.

(f) and (g) The Government of India has launched a Sarvpriya Scheme in July 2000 which envisages distribution of 11 selected commodities of daily use namely Arhar Dal, Gram Dal, Malka Red, Urad Whole, Salt, Tea, toilet Soap, Detergent Cake, Exercise Notebooks, Edible Oil and Tooth Past in suitable consumer packs through existing outlets of Public Distribution System. The National Cooperative Consumers Federation of India Ltd (NCCE) is the nodal agency to implement the Scheme. The State Food and Civil Supplies Departments would make necessary arrangements for the distribution of these items.

Procedure to Debar the Income Tax payers from PDS

3318. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFARIS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that those who paid income tax for 1999-2000 have been denied ration from PDS shops w.e.f. 1st July, 2000;

(b) if so, whether among those who are not required to pay income tax on their income for the year 2000-2001 will automatically become entitled for ration from DPS shops; and

(c) what is the procedure adopted in such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) to (c) The Government has not debarred the Income Tax payers from the purview of the Public Distribution System (PDS) for supply of foodgrains, edible oils and kerosene. The Government of India have decided to exclude Income Tax Assesses and their family members from the purview of PDS sugar from July, 2000 onwards. Accordingly pending finalisation of the list of income tax assesses and their family members with the help of income tax authorities, ad-hoc reduction in the monthly levy sugar quota of States/UTs has been made.

The State Governments have been advised to obtain a simple declaration from the ration-card holders as to whether or not he/she and his/her family members is/are income tax assesses. Such declaration has a provision that in the event the declaration made is found, on verification, to be false, the cardholder is liable for concellation of his/her card or such other penalty as the State Government may decide to impose.

Stock of Sugar in Karnataka

3319. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the stock of sugar mills and also with the Government of Karnataka;

(b) what is the amount due to growers/farmers from sugar mills in Karnataka State;

(c) whether the sugar mills are in a position to make payment immediately; and

(d) if not, what action is proposed to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) Sugar stocks are held by the factories and only as per the allotment orders issued by the Central Government, the specified quantities are sold/delivered by the factories. As on 22.7.2000, the stock of sugar with the sugar mills in Karnataka State as reported by the sugar mills was 11.92 lakh tonnes.

(b) Based on the information received from the State Government, as on 30.6.2000, the sugar mills in Karnataka were to pay Rs. 107 crores to farmers/ growers as cane price dues.